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AUTHOR Bauer, Mary; Neimand, Hahn
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ABSTRACT

This document is a teacher's guide to the historic buildings of Eugene, Oregon. Eighteen buildings in the Skinner's Butte Historical District are highlighted, including the U.S. Post Office, the Eagles Building, the Lane Hotel, the Oregon Electric Depot, the Southern Pacific Railroad Depot, and several houses. For each structure there is a brief description of its history and architectural style. Lists of architectural features, specific to each building, direct the reader to details that characterize a particular style and/or make the building unique. A nine-item bibliography is included. (GEA)

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TEACHER'S GUIDE TO ARCHITECTURAL STYLES

SKINNER'S BUTTE HISTORICAL DISTRICT

BY

MARY BAUER AND HAHN NEIMAND

REVISED 1988

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INTRODUCTION

"Between the years 1700 and 1900, five basic American domestic architectural styles were developed: the Colonial, the Georgian, the Federal, the Greek Revival, and the Victorian."1 All five of these styles are represented, sometimes in a modified form, in the Skinner's Butte Historical District. "Most of the houses built as the West was being opened up were simplified reproductions of the major styles 'back East."2

1 Guide to Old American Houses, 1700-1900

2 Same as above.

U.S. POST OFFICE
520 Willamette

This public building was part of the New Deal Era, built in 1938. It has some Art Deco features, particularly the blue terra-cotta tiles on the east front. Art Deco is characterized by a linear composition with a vertical emphasis. Facades often feature a series of setbacks (not windows). Hard-edged low relief ornamentation is often present. Suggestions of pillars in the facade are called pilasters.

Look for:
____ blue terra-cotta tiles
____ window setbacks
____ pilasters
____ string course along roof-edge

Eagles Building
521 Willamette

This building has an unusual design based on the Mission Style. Built in 1906, the commercial front has imitation rafter poles. Note: Extensive modification has been made to the front of this building which is inconsistent with the original architecture.

Look for:
____ projecting rafter poles
____ curvilinear roof lines
____ plain wall extending above roofline, called a parapet

Lane Hotel
488 Willamette

This hotel was built in 1903, one year before the first cars. The design is Commercial Italianate. The Italianate style features a rectangular form with wide eaves, usually supported by large brackets, tall thin first floor windows, and a low pitch hip* roof, long porches are characteristics of this style.

Look for:
____ windows
____ pillars
____ wide eaves
____ large brackets
____ tall first floor windows
____ low pitch hip roof
____ double doors with glass panels

* Hip roof: One which slopes upward on all four sides.

Oregon Electric Depot
27 East Fifth Avenue

This depot was built in 1914 for the inter-urban electric railway that served Eugene from 1912-1933. It ran from Portland to Eugene.

The style is Georgian Revival. Notice the hip roof, small interior chimney, bilateral symmetry, small paned regular windows, brick and decorative elements.

This building is noted for its carved stone detailing (notice windows with flat arches with pronounced keystone and prominent entrance of arched windows. The arched windows are call Palladian or Venetian windows.

Look for:
___ interior chimney
___ decoration
___ Palladian windows
___ flat arches
___ small-paned windows (8 over 8)

Southern Pacific Railroad Depot

Built in 1908, this is the third depot on this site. The style is Romanesque Revival. Notice the hip roof with wide overhanging eaves supported by massive wooden beams, rounded bay, round-ended wing, and the heavy appearance of the whole building. The building originally included an express office and bunkhouse.

Look for:
___ hip roof
___ round corners
___ brickwork above windows
___ wooden beams
___ deep set windows
___ large eaves

Note Express building next to the Depot. It is an example of Richardsonian Romanesque Style.

Look for:
___ brackets
___ large hip roof with flared eaves
___ chimneys
___ transoms

Shelton McMurphy House
303 Willamette

This house was built in 1888. It was sometimes called the "Castle on the Hill." The style is Victorian/Queen Anne. The asymmetrical composition consists of a variety of forms and textures, materials and colors. It uses elements and forms from many styles. Notice the elaborately detailed woodwork, tower with conical roof, bay window, various roof and window shapes, decorated wrap-around porches and verandas, wrought iron decorations, variety of surface textures, and many small details. This house is now owned by the Lane County Historical Museum.

Look for:
___ conical tower
___ decorations
___ wrought iron
___ multi-gabled roof
___ fluted pilasters next to first and second story windows
___ window shapes
___ fish scale shingles
___ porches
___ horizontal siding
___ tall thin chimney

Watts House
335 Pearl

This house was built in about 1893. It is another Queen Anne Style. Notice the corner tower with the conical roof, variety of roof shapes, porches, railings, bay window, and a variety of surface textures.

Look for:
___ tower
___ projecting attic gable with recessed porch
___ conical roof
___ porches

Coggswell-Miller House
246 Third Street

This house was built in 1884. It is an example of the Rural Gothic Style. Notice the unusual jerkinhead* roof. Most Gothic houses have steep gable roofs. Notice the asymmetrical composition: projecting dormer and porch. The carport behind this house is open to the public and contains a small museum of historical pictures and maps of Eugene.

Look for:
___ jerkinhead roof
___ porch

* Roof with clipped gable.

Mim's House
330 High

This house was built in 1867 and moved to this site. The style is Gothic Revival. Notice the steep gable roof, central dormer, porch, wood frame construction, and painted arch windows. the windows in the upstairs in the front on on the side was called a Trinity window from gothic churches in Medieval Europe. The picture windows were not originally on this house.

Look for: ____ Trinity windows ____ picture windows

____ steep gable roof

336 High Street

This house is built in the Early Colonial style. It is a very old house built in 1879, and it is the oldest structure in the area on its original site. it is simple in style, and it has been built in more than one section. Notice the "four over four" paned windows, the fact that the window and door trim is almost flush with the siding, and the lack of elaborate ornamentation. Usually, Colonial houses have a box-like shape, interior chimneys, symmetrical placement of doors and double hung sash windows with six-over-six or more panes.

The siding was usually horizontal and the house had plain corner boards, simple moldings around doors and windows and sometimes more elaborate moldings concentrated at the eaves. Can you find a small decorative touch near the eaves of this house? This house is built on a foundation of posts and rocks. What do ve use today? The moldings across the tops of the windows and door are called "lintels."

Look for: ____ four over four ____ eave molding

____ simple moldings ____ horizontal siding

____ foundation ____ lintel

McAlister House
286 High

This house is done in the Queen Anne style. It was built in 1904.

Look for:

___ wood frame

___ variety of surface textures

___ towers or turrets

___ multi-story

___ elaborate details

___ decorated wrap-around porches or verandas

___ conical roofs

___ variety of roof shapes

___ various window shapes

Bungalow Style
235 Third Street

This is a much news style than the others. The style started with small simple cottages but was expanded to larger, more elaborate houses. Even the larger houses, however, retain the rustic qualities of the original style.

Look for:

___ wide eaves and exposed rafters

___ rectangular shape--earth-hugging

___ double hung windows with small panes

___ porches, verandas, sunrooms, and sleeping porches

___ low pitched roof

___ exterior chimneys

___ rustic surface materials

221 Third Street

Many homes use pillars near the doorways. Compare these pillars to other pillars you have seen. Do you like their proportions? Are they aesthetically pleasing? Do they fit the rest of the house?

Koppe House
205 Third Street

This Queen Anne style house was built in 1892.

Look for:

___ wood frame

___ elaborate details

___ variety of surface textures

___ variety of roof shapes

___ conical roof

___ decorated wrap-around porches or verandas

___ towers or turrets

___ various window shapes

___ multi-story

Federal Style
215 Second and 235 Second

"The Federal style is a more austere form of the Georgian style, one stripped of its ornamental features so that it became classical in feeling."1 The Federal style is typified by a smooth facade with a low pitched roof. The simple exterior often cloaked a very decorated interior. Many classical homes had pillars in front. Can you find the "pillars" on 235 Second Street? This type of ornamentation is called a "pilaster."

Look for:

___ tripart windows

___ low pitched roof

___ thin corner boards

___ smooth facade

___ pilasters

1 Guide to Old American Homes 1700-1900

Henderson House
260 High

This house was built starting in 1857 and is the oldest example of Greek Revival architecture in Eugene. The windows are entirely hand-made and pegged together.

The southwest portion was built first and was part of a tavern. Later, other parts were added. The building was used as a private school and then later as a residence.

The Greek Revival style is a wholly American invention, based on the appearance of a Greek temple. It was invented at a time when Americans were asserting their separation from English influence.

Look for:
- ____ triangular face (defined by eave returns)
- ____ thin, horizontal clapboard siding
- ____ wide frieze boards (under eaves)
- ____ columns on the porch
- ____ "golden rectangle" windows
- ____ 6 over 6 windows (some have been replaced)

Brick condominiums - entrance to park

These structures are quite new, built within the last ten years. Notice how many people can live together in a small space. How did the architect provide for garden areas, parking, and adequate light? Why do you think the architect chose brick instead of painted wood?

Skinner's Cabin
Rustic Style

Oregon settlers frequently built several homes. The first would be a quickly made, crude shelter. Next would come a one- or two-room log house, such as this cabin. And finally, settlers would be able to build a "real" house with sawn lumber.

Look for:

___ fitted corners

___ lov pitched roof

___ rectangular shape

___ logs laid in "courses"

___ squared off logs

___ chimney or smoke hole

___ small windovs

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Mike Helm, Eugene, Oregon: A Guide

Henry Lionel Williams - A Guide to Old American Houses 1700-1900

Blumenson, John J.-G., Identifying American Architecture

National Trust for Historic Preservation, Architects Make ZigZags, drawings by Roxie Munro; Text by Diane Maddex

Recommended films:

Houses Have History MB 810146 (show to class)

Architecture Wet MB 770204 (teacher resource)